

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EA-06 NEA-06 ISO-00 SWF-01 AID-05

CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01 INR-05 NSAE-00

RSC-01 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-01 TRSE-00 LAB-01 SIL-01

SAM-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-06 OIC-02 AF-04 /100 W

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R 271724Z NOV 74

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7902

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 101

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ELAB, ICFTU

SUBJ: ICFTU EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING, NOV. 21-22

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REF: EC BRUSSELS 9038; 9178

1. SUMMARY. THE 62ND MEETING OF THE ICFTU EXECUTIVE BOARD WAS HELD IN BRUSSELS NOVEMBER 21-22. THE MEETING WAS PRECEDED BY CEREMONIES MARKING THE ICFTU'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY FEATURING FORMER FRG CHANCELLOR WILLY BRANDT AS PRINCIPAL SPEAKER. AFL-CIO EUROPEAN REPRESENTATIVE, IRVING BROWN, ATTENDED THE CEREMONY. HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BOARD MEETING INCLUDED SELECTION OF MEXICO CITY AS SITE FOR THE 11TH WORLD CONGRESS OF THE ICFTU IN OCTOBER 1975, READMISSION OF GREEK GENERAL CONFEDERATION OF LABOR (GSEE) TO THE ICFTU, A DECISION TO SEND A SPECIAL HIGH LEVEL ICFTU STUDY MISSION TO LATIN AMERICA IN MARCH AND A GREEN LIGHT TO THE ICFTU SECRETARIAT TO PROCEED WITH THE JOINT WCL-ICFTU WORKING GROUP AIMED AT EVENTUAL MERGER. END SUMMARY.

2. 25TH ANNIVERSARY. FORMER GERMAN CHANCELLOR WILLY BRANDT WAS THE PRINCIPAL SPEAKER AT NOVEMBER 21 CEREMONIES MARKING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ICFTU. BRANDT PAID TRIBUTE TO THE ORGANIZATION FOR ITS CONTRIBUTION TO WOLD PEACE SINCE ITS FOUNDING. HE ALSO POINTED TO THE IMPROVED SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF WORKERS IN EUROPE AND ELSEWHERE AS AN ACHIEVEMENT OF FREE TRADE UNIONISM. IN COMMENTING ON THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF FREE TRADE UNION SOLIDARITY, BRANDT SAID THAT AS A GERMAN HE WANTED TO EXPRESS HIS HEARTFELT GRATITUDE TO "OUR FRIENDS ACROSS OUR FRONTIERS, ESPECIALLY THE AMERICANS" FOR THEIR SUPPORT THROUGH THE YEARS. BRANDT ALSO TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE OCCASION TO REITERATE HIS CONCERN ABOUT THE NEED FOR CRISIS MANAGEMENT IN THE EC AND HIS FEAR THAT EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS WOULD "FALL APART," AS THEY DID DURING THE OIL EMBARGO, SHOULD ANOTHER CRISIS DEVELOP. (REFTEL B).

3. AFL-CIO PRESENCE. THE UNEXPECTED APPEARANCE OF AFL-CIO EUROPEAN REPRESENTATIVE IRVING BROWN AT THE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION CAUSED QUITE A STIR. HIS PRESENCE WAS NOT OFFICIALLY NOTED FROM THE PODIUM, BUT AT A PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING THE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING, ICFTU GENERAL SECRETARY KERSTEN RESPONDED TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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A QUESTION ABOUT AFL-CIO-ICFTU RELATIONS BY CITING BROWN'S PRESENCE AS AN INDICATION THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO ORGANIZATIONS "ARE NOT BAD." HE ALSO TOLD THE NEWSMEN THAT HE WOULD SOON SEND A PROPOSAL TO THE AFL-CIO SUGGESTING A JOINT APPROACH IN DEVELOPING AN INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION ACTION PROGRAM AIMED AT MNC'S.

4. MEXICO CITY IN 1975. THE EXECUTIVE BOARD SELECTED

MEXICO AS THE SITE OF THE ICFTU'S 11TH WORLD CONGRESS. LUXEMBOURG'S BID FOR THE CONGRESS WAS VOTED DOWN BECAUSE OF PRESSURES FROM THE SCANDINAVIANS TO HOLD THE CONGRESS OUTSIDE EUROPE. KUALA LUMPUR COULD NOT COMPETE WITH MEXICO COST-WISE BECAUSE THE MEXICAN CTM COULD PROMISE FREE CONGRESS FACILITIES AND OTHER SUPPORT FROM THE GOM. MEXICO CITY WAS ALSO SEEN AS THE LOGICAL SITE POLITICALLY, BECAUSE OF INCREASING ICFTU INTEREST IN LATIN AMERICA.

5. MISSION TO LATIN AMERICA. A FOUR-MAN, HIGH LEVEL ICFTU TEAM HEADED BY DANISH LO LEADER NIELSEN AND GERMAN DGB PRESIDENT VETTER WILL GO TO LATIN AMERICA IN MARCH 1975 TO STUDY THE TRADE UNION SITUATION. THE MISSION'S FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS, PARTICULARLY IN REGARD TO ORIT'S OPERATIONS, WILL BE REPORTED TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING PRECEDING THE WORLD CONGRESS, PROBABLY IN MAY OR JUNE.

6. CHILE AND ORIT. AN ANTICIPATED ROW OVER AN ORIT STATEMENT MARKING THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF ALLENDE'S OVERTHROW WAS AVOIDED WHEN ORIT GENERAL SECRETARY ETHCHEVERRY COUNTERACTED WITH A BLISTERING ATTACK ON THE CHILEAN MILITARY JUNTA. HE ASSURED THE SCANDINAVIANS THAT ORIT VIEWS OF THE SITUATION IN CHILE COINCIDED WITH THOSE OF THE ICFTU AND EUROPEAN TRADE UNIONS. THE SCANDINAVIANS WERE NOT FULLY SATISFIED, BUT WITHDREW THEIR PROTEST AGAINST ORIT AND THEIR OBJECTIONS TO MEXICO CITY AS SITE OF THE WORLD CONGRESS WHEN THE SECRETARIAT SUGGESTED THAT SUCH ACTIONS WOULD BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE PRIOR TO THE COMPLETION OF THE TRIP OF THE SPECIAL MISSION TO LATIN AMERICA.

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7903
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 102
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
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7. AID FOR CHILE. THE ICFTU EXECUTIVE BOARD APPROVED
A SECRETARIAT APPEAL FOR MORE VOLUNTARY FUNDS TO BE
USED IN CHILE AND TO SUPPORT CHILEAN TRADE UNIONISTS
IN EXILE. THE BOARD PLEDGED CONTINUED ICFTU SUPPORT
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FOR THE CHILEAN CONFEDERATION OF WORKERS (CUT) IN
EXILE AND AGREED TO CONTINUE PAYING THE SALARY OF CUT
LEADER LUIS MENEZES WHO REPRESENTS CUT IN BRUSSELS
WORKING OUT OF BELGIAN FGTB HEADQUARTERS.

8. EAST-WEST RELATIONS. THE QUESTION OF THE FRENCH
CGT'S APPLICATION FOR ETUC MEMBERSHIP WAS DISCUSSED
AND, ACCORDING TO A RELIABLE SOURCE WHO ATTENDED THE
BOARD MEETING, SENTIMENT WAS OVERWHELMINGLY AGAINST
CGT MEMBERSHIP IN THE ETUC. GERMAN DGB PRESIDENT
VETTER ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE, WAS SUPPORTED IN HIS CONTENTION THAT
THE CGT COULD NOT BE CONSIDERED IN THE SAME LIGHT AS THE
ITALIAN CGIL BECAUSE OF THE CGT'S STRICT ADHERENCE TO
THE WFTU AND MOSCOW LINE. IT WAS AGREED THAT THE
ICFTU WOULD NOT HAVE A ROLE IN THE 2ND EAST-WEST MEETING
IN GENEVA NEXT FEBRUARY. CONCERNING WCL RELATIONS WITH
THE WFTU, KERSTEN TOLD NEWSMEN AFTER THE BOARD MEETING

THAT HE COULD SEE NO REASON FOR SEPARATE WCL-ICFTU
CONTACTS WHEN THEY COULD TAKE PLACE WITHIN THE FRAME WORK
OF THE ILO.

9. ICFTU-WCL WORKING GROUP. THE BOARD AUTHORIZED THE SECRETARIAT
TO PROCEED WITH PLANS TO ACTIVATE THE NEW JOINT ICFTU-
WCL WORKING GROUP AIMED AT EVENTUAL MERGER OF THE TWO
INTERNATIONALS. THE GROUP WILL MEET IN GENEVA IN
FEBRUARY AND IS EXPECTED TO COLLABORATE IN CARRYING OUT
PRORAMS IN PORTUGAL AS A FIRST PHASE OF JOINT ACTIVITIES.

10. PRINCIPAL RESOLUTIONS AND ACTIONS ADOPTED BY THE
EXECUTIVE BOARD DEALT WITH ENERGY, INFLATION, WORLD HUNGER,
MNC'S, PORTUGAL, SOUTH AFRICA, ETHIOPIA AND CYPRUS.
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